

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

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1. A method for receiving data from a telecommunication service provider, comprising the steps of:

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specifying validation rules for analysing data items in a first format;

specifying population rules for converting the data items to a second format;

receiving a set of data items in the first format from the service provider;

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analyzing the set of data items according to the validation rules; and

converting the data items into the second format according to the population rules.

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2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of changing the validation rules and the population rules in accord with changes to the first format.

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3. The method according to claim 2 wherein the validation and population rules are changed through a user interface.

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4. The method according to claim 3 wherein there are a plurality of first formats, each first format having validation and population rules relating to a single second format.

5. The method according to claim 4 wherein each first format is determined by a service provider.

5 6. The method according to claim 5 wherein the first and second formats are first and second record structures respectively and each data item corresponds to a field in each record structure.

10 7. The method according to claim 6 wherein a validation rule checks that a data item corresponding to a field of the first record structure is compatible with a data type of the field of the first record structure.

15 8. A system for receiving data from a telecommunication service provider comprising:

means for specifying validation rules for analyzing data items in a first format;

20 means for specifying population rules for converting the data items to a second format;

means for receiving a set of data items in the first format from the service provider;

means for analyzing the set of data items according to the validation rules; and

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means for converting the data items into the second format according to the population rules.

30 9. The system according to claim 8 further including a user interface for changing the validation rules and the population rules in accord with changes to the first format.

10. The system according to claim 9 wherein a plurality of first formats are defined, each first format having validation and population rules relating to a single second format.

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11. The system according to claim 10 wherein each first format is determined by a service provider.

10 12. The system according to claim 11 wherein the first and second formats are first and second record structures respectively and each data item corresponds to a field in each record structure.

15 13. The system according to claim 12 wherein a validation rule checks that a data item corresponding to a field of the first record structure is compatible with a data type of the field of the first record structure.

20 14. A computer readable medium containing code for implementing a system which receives data from a telecommunication service provider, wherein the system is for:

specifying validation rules for analyzing data items in a first format;

25 specifying population rules for converting the data items to a second format;

receiving a set of data items in the first format from the service provider;

analyzing the set of data items according to the validation rules; and

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converting the data items into the second format according to the population rules.

